

Essex County Sheriff's Department

Training & Staff Development

Job Interview Dress

It is important to understand what makes up your entire conservative job interview dress that is still the standard in most corporations.

The following list should give you a good idea of how to dress for a job interview:

Men:

1. Wear a business suit and tie. Basic black, dark navy, dark grey, matching tie and black leather lace-up shoes. Make sure it fits well.
2. A professionally pressed white shirt is always the best choice.
3. Match your belt to the color of your shoes.
4. Polish or clean your shoes the night before. Scuffmarks on your shoes reveal a lack of forethought and attention to detail.
5. Dark socks, black if possible.
6. Avoid cologne or aftershave that may overpower the interviewer.
7. Check your appearance before heading into an interview. Ensure your tie is straight, your teeth are clean and your hair is groomed.
8. Do not go in looking like a jewelry shop. Wedding and college rings are generally acceptable but other rings are not.
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Women:

1. Wear a conservative business suit, basic black, dark navy, dark grey. Make sure it fits well.
2. Very tight clothes see through tops and short skirts should be avoided.
3. Choose between closed toe shoes, pumps and loafers. If you are wearing a skirt, nylons are necessary.
4. Tone down the use of makeup, hair spray, perfume and jewelry. One nose ring is one too many and may cost you the job of your dreams.

General:

1. Keep interview accessories professional. Take a briefcase or nice leather bound portfolio to carry resume, references or other pertinent documents. Leave tattered manila folders or college logo folders at home.
2. Make sure you do not smell badly and chew some gum before the interview but never during the interview.
3. If you have a tattoo, cover it up.
4. Make sure your nails are clean and there are no loose threads on your clothing.
5. Clothing and accessories do not have to be expensive to make a good impression, but they should always be in good taste and clean. They should also be toned down rather than wild or extravagant. You want the interviewer's attention to be focused on you, not on your clothes.